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Security Council

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Identical letters dated 14 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and in reference to the letters dated 4 April 2018 (S/2018/310) and 3 May 2018 (S/2018/434) from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations, which contained allegations that were devoid of truth and distorted the facts in order to defame the State of Qatar, I should like to state the following:

- The State of Qatar rejects the allegations contained in the two letters from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain, and reiterates its categorical denial of those claims. In that connection, I should like to draw attention to the facts put forward in our letter dated 9 May 2018 (S/2018/441), which refuted allegations made by the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates regarding the same incidents alleged in the letters from Bahrain.

- That the Permanent Mission of Bahrain should send letters whose content mimics that of letters from the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates is hardly surprising. Both the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates are in violation of their obligations under international agreements regulating air navigation, and are imposing an unjust blockade and illegal measures against Qatar that include closing the airspace of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates to Qatari aircraft.

- Bahrain is abusing its role as the air navigation services provider for the region in order to achieve political objectives at the expense of the professionalism, accuracy, objectivity and neutrality required by the responsibilities entrusted to the Bahraini authorities as the air navigation services provider for the region. The declaration in the aforementioned letter from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain (S/2018/434) that his country "affirms its complete solidarity with the United Arab Emirates" is evidence of bias on the part of the air navigation services provider for the region and dispels such credibility as might have been attributed to the content of the Bahraini letters regarding the alleged incidents.

- The bias and favouritism of the Bahraini authorities, as acknowledged by the Permanent Representative of Bahrain, together with their failure to comply with the agreement on the provision of air navigation services for the region is additional evidence in support of what the State of Qatar has stated in its previous letters and the complaints it has filed with the International Civil Aviation Organization.

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- Qatar regrets that although the relevant parties in the State of Qatar have repeatedly urged the air navigation services provider in Bahrain to carry out its technical duties as prescribed by international law and the relevant air navigation agreements, that air navigation services provider has irresponsibly reneged on its obligations. Qatar expresses its deep distress and consternation at this attitude, which is a serious violation of the obligation to guarantee application of the relevant international air navigation standards, especially since this unprofessional and biased attitude could have dangerous implications for the security and safety of civil aviation. Participation by the Kingdom of Bahrain in the unjust blockade and the illegal arbitrary measures against the State of Qatar does not absolve the air traffic services provider in the Kingdom of Bahrain of its responsibilities and duties under the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation.

Lastly, while the State of Qatar reiterates that it complies with the provisions of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and international agreements regulating air navigation and the rules of international civil aviation, it condemns the abdication by the Kingdom of Bahrain of its responsibilities under agreements and guidelines regulating air navigation that entrusted Bahrain with the role of air navigation services provider for the region. Qatar stresses that this biased and unprofessional attempt by the Kingdom of Bahrain to exploit its functions for political purposes is a dangerous development that endangers the safety of air navigation in the region, threatens stability, and shows that Bahrain is not qualified to perform the functions of air navigation services provider. Qatar reiterates its call for the civil aviation authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain to be compelled to cooperate with the aviation sector in a professional, neutral, responsible and non-politicized fashion.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Permanent Representative